(d) if so, what action is being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d) Tanda is not a station and no trains stop there. There was a demand for opening of a halt station at Tanda village between Ramnagar and Pirumadara stations. This proposal has been exmined, but found not justified either financially, due to meagre traffic prospects, or on passenger amenity grounds as the area is well served with road services.

Introduction of new trains for Andhra Pradesh

532. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to introduce new trains in Andhra Pradesh in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details of new trains under consideration for 1995-96; and

(c) whether S.C. Railway will consider introducing a late night express train between Hyderabad-Rajahmundry?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) New trains being introduced serving Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96 include:—

1. Tirupati-Bombay Express (Bi-weekly)

2. Tirupati-Cuddapah Express

3. Nagorcoil-Bombay Express (Weekly) (via Dharmavaram-Wedi

4. Puri-Ahmedabad Express (Weekly) (via Vizionagaram-Raipur)

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Track fracture in South Central Railway

533. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rail track from Vijayawada to Samalkot in South Central Railway has been frequently identified as prone to "track fracture";

(b) whether it is also a fact that no steps have been taken to reduce the occurrence of track fracure in this sector; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to rectify this problem?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Necessary steps e.g. ultrasonic flaw detection of rails and replacement of defective rails have been taken to reduce the incidence of rail fractures all over Indian Railways including this sector.

(c) Does not arise.

Non punctuality of South Central Express Trains

534. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Express trains in South Central Railway are not maintaining punctuality;

(b) if so, what is the punctuality record of 'Gowthami Express' in recent times; and

(c) what steps Government propose to properly monitor the proper running of Express trains in South Central Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) Mail/Express trains in

South Central Railway are maintaining a satisfactory level of punctuality percentage.

However, the performance of 7047/7048 Gautami Express has not been very satisfactory during the recent past due to various reasons such as accidents, bad weather, engineering restrictions, equipment failures etc.

(c) Intensive chasing and daily monitoring at different levels, holding of daily punctuality meeting both at Divisional and Headquarters' level and foot-Plating by senior officers of different Departments.

Accident of Godavari Express Train

555. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Godavari Express in South Central Railway was involved in a serious accident in February, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cause of the accident?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) On 8.2.95, at about 0140 hrs., while 7008 Hyderabad-Visakhapatnam Godavari Express was passing through Bhimadole station on Vijayawada-Eluru-Rajahmundry section on Vijayawara Division, 8 coaches of the train derailed. As a result of this accident, 10 passengers sustained injuries, including 2 grievous

(c) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle has already held statutory inquiry and his report indicating the cause of the accident, is awaited.

Track renewal in South Central Railway

536. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South Central Railway has embarked on a programme of track renewal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the targets for track renewal are not being achieved; and

(c) if so, the status of targets and achievements on this matter in S.C. Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Targets for track renewals are fixed annually for all Railways prioritising stretches on safety/condition basis. Every Railway follows the programme set for it every year. The programme of Track Renewals on South Central Railway also follows the same procedure.

(b) No, Sir.

In fact the Railway has been exceeding the targets set for it every year.

(c) In 1993-94 S.C. Railway achieved a progress of 400 km. (CTR) Units) against a target of 350 km for track renewals and currently, up to January, 95, the Railway has already carried out 306 kms. of tracks renewals against a proportionate target of 301 kms. It is expected that for the year 1994-95 the S.C. Railway would achieve better progress than the annual target of 340 kms.

Derailment of Udyan Express Train

537. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a ghastly train accident on 31st December, 1994 when Bangalore bound Udyan Express from Bombay derailed near Bangalore;